



LRT IMPROVEMENTS IN AIRPORT SOUTH
PARKING STRUCTURE AND LRT STATION PLANNED

THE HIAWATHA LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT runs through Bloomington’s Airport South District, one of the fastest developing areas in the region. The \$700 million Bloomington Central Station redevelopment and the Mall of America’s second phase are two significant projects underway. A new parking structure and additional LRT station are planned improvements that will further encourage higher-density, mixed-use growth in the surrounding area.

A 1,450-space, five-level parking structure at the heavily used 28th Avenue Station park-and-ride lot is scheduled for construction this spring. The parking ramp will replace the 362-space surface parking lot on the south side of the station that is filled to capacity on weekdays. The new structure will also contain 2,000 square feet of retail space to be leased at a later date.



Metro Transit plans to provide temporary parking spaces on an adjacent property during ramp construction. The Bloomington Port Authority will issue bonds for construction of the \$24 million parking ramp scheduled for completion by fall 2008.

An additional LRT station at the intersection of 34th Avenue and American Boulevard could be put into service as soon as 2008. Original plans of the Hiawatha Line included the 34th Avenue Station, but the plan was modified when the light-rail transit realignment put a station directly at the Mall of America. Because preliminary work was done during initial construction of the light-rail line, a new station could be added without interrupting service. After submitting a joint application last year, the Metropolitan Council and the City of Bloomington were awarded federal funds to assist with the construction of the 34th Avenue Station as well as the park-and-ride ramp at the 28th Avenue Station. For information, call Julie Farnham at 952-563-4739.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

IN MEMORIAM – AUGUST (GUS) WELTER



Minnesota Historical Society



AUGUST (GUS) WELTER, BLOOMINGTON’S FIRST ASSISTANT Fire Chief, passed away in October. The Bloomington Fire Department began with an organizational meeting held in Welter’s heating and air conditioning shop on February 14, 1947. Welter, Roy Donkersgood, Carl Christensen and Bob Smith purchased the land at 95th Street and Syndicate Avenue from the Town Council for \$1 to construct Bloomington’s first fire station. With Welter’s help, the Bloomington Fire Department became one of the finest all-volunteer fire departments in the country. After he retired from active service, Welter served with the National Volunteer Fire Council. In 1990, the Council presented Welter with the Lifetime Achievement and Firefighter of the Year awards.

GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SPECIAL EVENT COVERAGE



“I noticed Bloomington Police Officers directing traffic at a recent race event. Does this create a shortage of police officers? Who pays for this service?”
A Bloomington resident

MOST PRIVATE EVENTS WITHIN Bloomington that require police services are staffed by Bloomington police officers working contractual overtime. Because officers working contractual overtime are assigned from a list of volunteers who work these events beyond their regular duty assignments, there is no impact to on-duty staffing. The event sponsors pay the officers an hourly rate, in addition to administrative fees, to cover all costs incurred. The Mall of America also pays for officers who work traffic detail at the mall.

TURN YOUR HOUSE INTO YOUR DREAM HOME
LOW-INTEREST HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS AVAILABLE

THE BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AND Redevelopment Authority (HRA) will be accepting applications from late January through March 30, 2007, for its Home Improvement Deferred Loan Program.

Loans of up to \$35,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners. There are no monthly payments. Repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or conveyed. Interest is charged at an annual rate of 5 percent of the original loan principal for the first 10 years. No additional interest accrues after 10 years.

A lead risk assessment is required for all homes built before 1978.

Loans are offered to help maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods. Applications are ranked and processed according to need.

To apply for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must be the owner-occupant of your home and have sufficient equity to cover the loan amount. *Income guidelines apply. See table below right.*

- Eligible repairs**
- Replacement of roofs, electrical and plumbing systems.
 - Gutters, windows, doors, insulation, siding, soffits and fascia.
 - Exterior painting.
 - Foundation, sidewalk or steps.
- Ineligible repairs**
- Decorating.
 - Additions.
 - Finishing basements.
 - Remodeling.
 - Garage construction.

BEFORE



AFTER



Loan applications will be accepted at the HRA office at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, until Friday, March 30. For more information or to receive an application, call 952-563-8937.

INCOME GUIDELINES

Persons in household*	Maximum gross income**
1	\$41,700
2	\$47,700
3	\$53,650
4	\$59,600
5	\$64,350
6	\$69,150
7	\$73,900
8 or more	\$78,650

* Includes all residents of household, related and unrelated, including renters.
** Subject to change.